

The Spanish Empire Factors to Consider

Student Name _____ Date _____

- 1) The Spanish Empire spread around the world with colonies in the Americas and the Philippines.
- 2) Despite the defeat of the Spanish Armada by England in 1588, Spain remained the strongest military power in Europe through much of the 17th century.
- 3) Throughout this period, the Spanish Empire was almost continuously at war with its European neighbors and the Ottoman Empire in the Mediterranean Sea.
- 4) As defenders of the Catholic faith, the Spanish Empire fought numerous and expensive wars against the Ottoman Empire and Protestant states in northern Europe. Its goal was to reunite Europe under the Roman Catholic Church.
- 5) In 1648, the Dutch Netherlands become completely independent from Spain.
- 6) Spain controlled vast silver imports from its American colonies. King Phillip IV declared: “in silver lies the security and strength of my Empire.”
- 7) The constant influx of silver made it unnecessary for Spain to make any dramatic economic changes to raise revenues for its high military costs. However, most Spanish silver went out of Spain in order to pay creditors (including Dutch banks).
- 8) The Spanish crown had a monopoly on foreign trade although Spanish trade was never significant.
- 9) The Spanish crown imposed high taxes on its subjects, particularly peasants, but exempted the nobility from paying taxes.
- 10) Silver mining, a difficult and often brutal process, as well as diseases imported from the Old World, left the American Indian labor force in Spanish colonies depleted. In order to keep up silver mining, Spain needs a new labor force.